[17th March 1934

PRESENT—*cont.*

Thangal, Mr. P. M.
Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
Thorne, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. J. A.
Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Viswanatha Rao, Diwan Bahadur V. N.
Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
Zamindar of Kirlampudi, The.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram, The.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

Agriculture.

Measures for combating the pests affecting ginger crops in Malabar.

* 790 *Q.*—Mr. P. M. Thangal: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether complaints have been received by the Agricultural department about the pests affecting ginger crops in Malabar;

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken to remove such pests; and

(*c*) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

A.—(*a*) On 20th September 1933 the Tahsildar of Ernad taluk wrote to the Agricultural Demonstrator, Manjeri, that ginger crops were affected by disease in certain villages in the taluk.

(*b*) The local Demonstrator in Mycology visited the affected areas and investigated the disease. Specimens of diseased ginger were sent to the Government Mycologist at Coimbatore, who discovered that the disease was due to the fungus "Pythium butleri" and suggested certain remedies for the prevention and check of the disease. The Agricultural Department will do all that is possible to control the disease.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Local Self-Government

District Municipalities working at a deficit.

* 791 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many and which of the District Municipalities are working at a deficit; and

(*b*) what steps the Government propose to take to rectify the same?

A.—(*a*) A statement [a] is laid on the table.

(*b*) Steps have to be taken by the Municipal Councils themselves. The advice given to them in this connexion is shown in the statement referred to in the answer to clause (*a*) above.

a Printed as Appendix I on page 431 infra.